

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention contemplates a trash can that one finds in high-traffic public venues. The trash can receives trash through an opening in the top of the housing. A trash by-pass chute is disposed within the housing and transports the trash from the opening in the top to the lower portion of the housing. A compacting mechanism is provided for automatically compacting the trash in the lower portion of the housing. Access to the trash by-pass chute is controlled by a hatch that can be closed by activation of a hatch stop. An actuator automatically activates the hatch stop during operation of the compacting mechanism. The compacted trash may be removed from the lower portion of the housing via a door that opens to allow access through the side of the trash can. The mechanism for compacting trash contents is automatically disabled if the door is open. A controller operates in conjunction with non-contact magnetic sensors to control operation of the trash can. A method is provided of forming a fiberglass item that includes an embedded image that can be cleaned without degrading the appearance of the image.